

UNSHAKABLE

MONDAY: MAY 25, 2020

READ: JOHN 3

SCRIPTURE VERSE: *"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."*- John 15:13

TODAY'S THOUGHT:

Today is Memorial Day. It is a day that finds its roots in the American Civil War era and is celebrated on the last Monday in May. It also marks the beginning of summer. Memorial Day was first observed to commemorate the Union and Confederate soldiers who died in the Civil War by proclamation of Gen. John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former Union sailors and soldiers. Then in 1873, it developed into a holiday which honors all men and women who have died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. It is also a special day, when we honor our own loved ones who have passed on before us. Today we celebrate their legacy. The legacy they have left behind for us to remember them by.

For those of us who are Followers of Christ, this day also serves as a vivid reminder of the ultimate sacrifice that was paid for our spiritual freedom- when Jesus Christ, the Son of God, willingly bore our sins on the cross so that all who believe in Him might be reconciled to Him and have eternal life. In John 15:13 we read the very words that express what Christ did for us, *"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."* Another familiar reminder of the ultimate sacrifice for all of us is found in the famously quoted John 3:16-17 *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him."*

As we spend some time remembering those who have laid down their lives for our freedom let us be comforted by these words from Psalms 34:18 *"The LORD is near to the brokenhearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit."* Even though we are saddened by their loss we are reminded by Isaiah to not be afraid *"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*
- Isaiah 41:10

Furthermore, we find comfort in knowing that those we have lost that knew Christ as their personal Savior, we will soon see them again in eternity. John encourages us with these words in Revelation 21:4, *"God will wipe away every tear! and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."*

Allow me to share with you some Memorial Day quotes we close out our time together this morning:

- ***"When we make God our King and advance his Kingdom in our nation, we serve both our Lord and our country"* (Matthew 6:33).**
- ***"Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened."* ~ Billy Graham**
- ***"There is no greater sacrifice than giving one's life for their country. Memorial Day allows us to remember our fallen heroes, our loved ones who served and to pay our respects to the many who paid the ultimate price. God Bless each and every one of them."* ~ unknown**
- ***"Who kept the faith and fought the fight; The glory theirs, the duty ours."* ~ Wallace Bruce**
- ***"They hover as a cloud of witnesses above this Nation."* ~ Henry Ward Beecher**

A Memorial Day Prayer:

"Dear Heavenly Father,

As we remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom we enjoy each day, we think of how they have followed in the footsteps of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Please hold our servicemen and women in your strong arms. Cover them with your sheltering grace and your presence as they stand in the gap for our protection.

We also remember the families of our troops. We ask for your unique blessings to fill their homes, and we pray your peace, provision, and strength will fill their lives.

May the members of our armed forces be supplied with courage to face each day and may they trust in the Lord's mighty power to accomplish each task. Let our military brothers and sisters feel our love and support.

And now, "May the Lord bless you and take good care of you.

May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord look on you with favor and give you his peace."[1]

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray amen and amen.

Have a great Memorial Day,
Pastor Randy